

Preliminary Performance Review

**Southern Regional Education
Board**

**West Virginia's Participation in the
Southern Regional Education Board
Is Beneficial in the State's Planning
and Implementation of Educational
Policies and Responsibilities**



**December 2002
PE02-30-262**

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John Sylvia
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December 15, 2002

The Honorable Edwin J. Bowman
State Senate
129 West Circle Drive
Weirton, West Virginia 26062

The Honorable Vicki V. Douglas
House of Delegates
Building 1, Room E-213
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0470

Dear Chairs:

Pursuant to the West Virginia Sunset Law, we are transmitting a *Preliminary Performance Review of the Southern Regional Education Board*, which will be presented to the Joint Committee on Government Operations on Sunday, December 15, 2002. The issue covered herein is "West Virginia's Participation in the Southern Regional Education Board is Beneficial in the State's Planning Policies and Responsibilities."

We transmitted a draft copy of the report to the Southern Regional Education Board on November 22, 2002. The SREB opted not to have an Exit Conference. We received the agency response on December 5, 2002.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Sylvia in cursive script.
John Sylvia

JS/wsc

Joint Committee on Government and Finance

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Executive Summary

West Virginia's Participation in the Southern Regional Education Board Is Beneficial in the State's Planning and Implementation of Educational Policies and Responsibilities.

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), established in 1948, is the first regional and interstate educational compact by southern states. There are 16 states in the compact which helps government and educational leaders collaborate in the advancement of education and improvement of the social and economic life of the region.

West Virginia's membership in SREB allows for a research and policy agenda which is more relevant to the needs of the State. The regional focus of SREB allows West Virginia to share ideas and learn from states that face similar demographic and socioeconomic circumstances. West Virginia's share of the SREB's operating expenses for FY 2003 is \$160,500. The SREB's total operating budget is \$24 million, which includes funding from federal sources and foundations in addition to the contributions by member states.

Membership in the SREB allows for member states to receive various services. Perhaps the most valuable of these services is the research and analysis that the SREB provides to member states. This research and analysis can be used to compare member states, measure progress of member states, identify best practices and predict future trends that can help member states determine the best allocation and use of resources with regards to their educational needs. The SREB also monitors Congress for education-related legislation as well as lobby on behalf of its member states.

West Virginia's membership in the SREB has been beneficial to the state. The number of High Schools That Work sites in the state increased from three in 1992 to 113 in 2002. Also, both the West Virginia Department of Education and the Higher Education Policy Commission are members of SREB's Technological Cooperative, which provides both agencies with the latest news and analysis on a wide range of educational technological issues. Lastly, there are currently eight colleges and universities participating actively in the SREB Electronic Campus. There are also, seven additional institutions planning to offer courses or programs as part of the Electronic Campus later this academic year.

Recommendation

The Legislature should consider continuing West Virginia's participation in the Southern Regional Education Board.

Review Objective, Scope and Methodology

This Preliminary Performance Review of West Virginia's participation in the Southern Regional Education Board is required and authorized by the West Virginia Sunset Law B4-10-5 of the West Virginia *Code*, as amended.

Objective

The objective of the report is to determine if West Virginia's participation in the Southern Regional Education Board is beneficial to the state.

Scope

The scope of this evaluation covers the period from 1992 to 2002.

Methodology

The methodology for this report included reviewing relevant statutes with the West Virginia *Code*, as amended, various reports produced by the Southern Regional Education Board as well as interviews and correspondence with the Department of Education and the Arts. Every aspect of this review complied with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAGAS).

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West Virginia's membership in SREB allows for a research and policy agenda which is more relevant to the needs of the State. The regional focus of SREB allows West Virginia to share ideas and learn from states that face similar demographic and socioeconomic circumstances. West Virginia's share of the SREB's operating expenses for FY 2003 is \$160,500. The SREB's total operating budget is \$24 million, which includes funding from federal sources and foundations in addition to the contributions by member states.

After reviewing all materials for this review, it is concluded that West Virginia's participation in the SREB should be continued. The State's delegation to the Board, also agree that membership in the SREB is beneficial. The state's delegation includes the Governor, the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, the Chair of the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee and the Chair of House Education Committee, as well as, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education and the Arts.

Services Provided By the SREB

Membership in the SREB allows for member states to receive various services. Perhaps the most valuable of these services is the research and analysis that the SREB provides to member states. This research and analysis can be used to compare member states, measure progress of member states, identify best practices and predict future trends that can help member states determine the best allocation and use of resources with regards to their educational needs. The SREB also monitors Congress for education-related legislation as well as lobby on behalf of member states.

SREB's Programs and Initiatives

The SREB stresses that states not only set goals for education, but also should measure progress by making comparisons and monitoring trends. The goals set for the 21st century have three themes. First, students at every level are ready for learning. Second, schools and colleges are ready for students. And third, states take on the responsibility to provide leadership with quality schools, colleges and universities for all residents of the southern region of the United States.

High Schools That Work

The High Schools That Work (HSTW) program assists school staff in determining how best to help career/technical students meet higher standards. Furthermore, it helps participating schools to identify and address the challenges they face in improving student achievement. HSTW's participants commit to a five-year effort to raise the achievement of career-bound high school students by blending high-level career/technical and academic studies. In other words, students who seek employment upon graduation from high school get the same quality and quantity of course work and guidance as students who pursue post secondary education.

West Virginia's participation in HSTW has been on the increase since 1992 (see Table 1). There are currently 113 HSTW sites in the state. Of these, 90 are high schools and 26 are county or regional career centers (see Appendix B for a list of all HSTW sites).

Year	HSTW Sites in West Virginia
1992	3
1994	26
1996	62
1998	95
2000	93
2002	113

Making Schools Work

Making Schools Work (MSW) seeks to raise student achievement in rural areas by providing teachers with intensive professional development. Rigorous curricula are established in order to strengthen the transition from middle grades to high school. MSW works with clusters of high schools and their feeder middle grades to achieve this objective. There are six school clusters in West Virginiañ Fayette, Hancock, Logan, Ritchie, Webster and Wirt countiesñinvolved in Making Schools Work.

SREB-State Data Exchange

West Virginia officials in government and education have benefitted from timely, comparative information on post secondary education enrollment from the SREB Data Exchange for 32 years. Other key decision-making information that emanate from the Data Exchange include, state and local appropriations, faculty salaries and benefits, degrees awarded, student progression toward graduation and student tuition and fees. The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission provides campus-by-campus information to the Data Exchange. Member states employ this information in planning and coordinating activities, in making budget decisions about higher education and in setting tuition and fees. This program, also enables states to work collaboratively and develop new interstate comparisons.

Educational Technology Cooperative

The West Virginia Department of Education and the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission represent the state in the SREBís Educational Technology Cooperative (ETC). The ETC brings together all 38 state K-12 and post secondary coordinating and governing boards to plan, organize and use technology in schools and colleges. Individual schools and colleges are however, not members of the ETC.

Through their involvement with ETC, West Virginiaís state-level education agencies share information and work together to address educational technology issues. The issues are infrastructure and state networking, distance learning, professional development, instructional resources and technology procurement.

The Electronic Campus

The Electronic Campus allows more colleges and universities to reach more students and states by extending educational opportunities via technology. As such, colleges and universities are now offering more courses through the internet. The Southern Region's provision of courses, programs and services through the Electronic Campus makes it possible for students worldwide to enroll in more than 7,000 courses and 250 degree programs offered by colleges and universities in the 16 SREB states.

The Electronic Campus features the Distance Learning Policy Laboratory, which serves as a forum for member states to review and develop policies for expanding distance learning. It also supports SREB's continuing effort to establish electronic tuition rates that are the same for all students, regardless of where they live.

Eight colleges and universities in West Virginia currently participate in the SREB Electronic Campus. They are: Alderson-Broadus College, Bluefield State College, Marshall University, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College, West Virginia State College, West Virginia University and West Virginia Institute of Technology. A total of 70 different courses were offered by these institutions during the fall of 2002. Additionally, Concord College, Fairmont State College, Glenville State College, Potomac State College, Salem International University, West Liberty State College and West Virginia University at Parkersburg all plan to offer courses and instructions later this fall, as part of the Electronic Campus.

Conclusion

West Virginia's membership in the SREB has been beneficial to the state. Examining some of the educational achievements in the state, it is important to note that the impact of SREB on West Virginia's education is significant and positive. The number of High Schools That Work sites in the state increased from three in 1992 to 113 in 2002. Also, both the West Virginia Department of Education and the Higher Education Policy Commission are members of SREB's Technological Cooperative, which provides both agencies with the latest news and analysis on a wide range of educational technological issues. Lastly, there are currently eight colleges and universities participating actively in the SREB Electronic Campus. There are also, seven additional institutions planning to offer courses or programs as part of the Electronic Campus later this academic year. Findings from the preliminary performance review of West

Virginia's participation in the Southern Regional Education Board are sufficient, therefore, a full performance evaluation is not necessary.

Recommendation

The Legislature should consider continuing West Virginia's participation in the Southern Regional Education Board.

Appendix A Transmittal Letter

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE *Performance Evaluation and Research Division*

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John Sylvia
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December 15, 2002

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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John Sylvia in cursive script.
John Sylvia

JS/wsc

Joint Committee on Government and Finance

Appendix B HSTW Sites

West Virginia *High Schools That Work* Sites

County	School
Barbour	Phillip Barbour High School
Berkeley	Hedgesville High School
	Martinsburg High School
	Musselman High School
	James Rumsey Technical Institute
Boone	Scott High School
	Sherman High School
	Van High School
	Boone Career Center
Brooke	Brooke High School
Cabell	Cabell Midland High School
	Huntington High School
	Cabell County Career Technical Center
Calhoun	Calhoun Gilmer Career Center
Clay	Clay County High School
Fayette	Fayetteville High School
	Gauley Bridge High School
	Meadow Bridge High School
	Midland Trail High School
	Mount Hope High School
	Oak Hill High School
	Valley High School
	Fayette Plateau Vocational Technical Center
Gilmer	Gilmer County High School
Grant	Petersburg High School
	Union Educational Complex
	South Branch Technical Center
Hampshire	Hampshire High School
Hancock	Oak Glen High School
	Weir High School
	John D. Rockefeller Vocational Technical Center
Harrison	Bridgeport High School
	Liberty High School
	Lincoln High School
	Robert C. Byrd High School
	South Harrison High School
	United Technical Center
Jackson	Ravenswood High School
	Ripley High School
	Roane Jackson Technical Center
Jefferson	Jefferson High School

Lewis	Lewis County High School
Lincoln	Duval High School
	Guyan Valley High School
	Hamlin High School
	Harts High School
	Charles Yeager Career Center
Logan	Chapmanville High School
	Logan High School
	Man High School
	Ralph R. Willis Technical Center
Mason	Hannah High School
	Pt. Pleasant High School
	Wahama High School
	Mason County Technical Center
Mercer	Bluefield High School
	Montcalm High School
	PikeView High School
	Princeton Senior High School
	Mercer County Technical Education Center
Mineral	Frankfort High School
	Keyser High School
	Mineral County Technical Center
Mingo	Burch High School
	Gilbert High School
	Matewan High School
	Tug Valley High School
	Williamson High School
	Mingo County Technical Center
Monongalia	Clay Battelle High School
	Morgantown High School
	Monongalia County Technical Education Center
Monroe	James Monoe High School
Morgan	Berkeley Springs High School
McDowell	Big Creek High School
	Iaeger High School
	Mount View High School
	McDowell County Technical Center
Nicholas	Nicholas County High School
	Richwood High School
	Nicholas County Career and Technical Center
Ohio	Wheeling Park High School
Pocahontas	Pocahontas County High School
Preston	Preston High School
Raleigh	Independence High School
	Liberty High School

	Marsh Fork High School
	Shady Spring High School
	Woodrow Wilson High School
	Academy of Careers & Technology
Randolph	Elkins High School
	Harman High School
	Tygarts Valley High School
	Randolph County Vocational Technical Center
Ritchie	Ritchie County High School
Summers	Summers County High School
Tucker	Tucker County High School
Wayne	Spring Valley High School
	Tolsia High School
	Wayne High School
Webster	Webster County High School
Wetzel	Hundred High School
	Magnolia High School
	Paden City High School
	Valley High School
Wirt	Wirt County High School
Wood	Parkersburg High School
	Parkersburg South High School
	Williamstown High School
	Wood County Technical Center
Wyoming	Westside High School
	Wyoming East High School
	Wyoming County Technical Center

Appendix C Agency Response



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING 5, ROOM 205
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BOB WISE
GOVERNOR

KAY GOODWIN
CABINET SECRETARY

December 4, 2002

John Sylvia
West Virginia Legislature
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1900 Kanawha Boulevard E.
Charleston, WV 25305

RECEIVED
DEC 05 2002
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND
RESEARCH DIVISION

Dear Mr. Sylvia:

This letter is in response to your correspondence of November 22, 2002, in which you enclosed a draft copy of the Performance and Evaluation Research Division's Preliminary Performance Review of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).

I believe that your office has accurately characterized the nature and the vital importance of West Virginia's participation in SREB. SREB is the nation's most outstanding regional education cooperative, and we are indeed fortunate to have access to its resources and expertise. I agree fully with the analysis and conclusions found in your report.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay Cole".

Jay Cole
Deputy Secretary

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